

Application No. 09/914,537
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REMARKS

The remarks in this paper are in response to the Office communication dated June 1, 2003. Amendments and remarks made in response to the Office Action mailed August 26, 2003 were presented in the response dated November 26, 2003. Applicants refer to that response to address any issues not explicitly set forth in the June 1, 2004 Office communication.

Claims 1-4 and 5-21 are pending in this application. In this Office communication, the Examiner has raised concerns with regard to claims 14, 16, and 21. Applicants address each objection in turn.

Claim 14 has been amended in this response to place the claim back to its original condition.

Claim 16 has been amended to remove the superfluous removal step recited in the claim.

Claim 21 has been amended to specify that the "excess" claimed by Applicants is a stoichiometric excess, an inference that one skilled in the art would have been able to make in view of the context of the claim. Additionally, the term "variant" has been replaced by the more widely used term "derivative" to satisfy the Examiner's objection to the replaced term.

Applicants do not believe any fee is due with the filing of this amendment and response. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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